THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILYWELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) Delhi is endemic for Dengue, which shows seasonal and cyclic trends. Every year, cases of Dengue rise in post monsoon season and subside by the onset of winter. During 2009, till 17th November, total 883 cases and 2 deaths have been reported from National Capital Territory of Delhi. The number of patients affected by Dengue in Delhi reported during September, October and November, 2009 are given below:

| Month, 2009 | No. of Dengue cases reported | Cumulative total |
|---|---|---|
| Upto August | 4 | 4 |
| September | 33 | 37 |
| October | 337 | 374 |
| November (till 17th) | 509 | 883 |
| TOTAL | 883 | |

The above cumulative total for 2009 is far less than the number of reported cases in 2008 (till October) *i.e.* 1076. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the Dengue is firming its grip in the capital.

(c) and (d) Government of India under its National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) provides technical guidance and financial support to the State/UT governments in the form of cash grants and logistics. It also educates the public for prevention of dengue and other vector borne diseases through advertisements in print and electronic media. The implementation part of the Programme rests with the States/UTs.

The Central Cross Checking Organization (CCCO) of Directorate of NVBDCP monitors the implementation of anti-larval measures in areas of Municipal Corporation of Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Committee for elimination of Aedes mosquitoes breeding.

Besides, 30 Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals and two Apex Referral Laboratories *(viz.,* All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and National Centre for Disease Control, (formerly National Institute of Communicable Diseases) have been identified to augment the diagnosis facility for Dengue in Delhi. Government of India provides test kits to these identified institutes through National Institute of Virology, Pune. In 2009, 166 dengue kits (1 kit - 96 tests) have been supplied to these Institutes.

Government of India regularly reviews the Dengue situation in Delhi and other parts of the country.

**Discussions in World Medical Association**

531. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Assembly of the World Medical Association was inaugurated by Government recently at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of points stated by the personalities in the said Assembly;

(c) whether the question of providing medical care to all the citizens in the country still remains a distant dream; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) Broadly the discussions have been held on issues relating to Child Health, Support for Regulated Stem Cell Research, Conflict of Interest and Relations with Commercial Enterprises, Call for more investment in Public Health and Call for Nicaragua to give up total ban on abortion, etc.

(c) and (d) Medical Council of India Regulations have been reviewed and amended suitably with regard to land requirement, teacher-student ratio, etc. which will facilitate setting up of more medical colleges and also enhance the intake in Post Graduate Courses and Super-Specialities.

Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations have been amended to provide:

i. 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and

ii. Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

Besides, other regulations have also been rationalized.

**Tackling swine flu surge**

532. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 214 confirmed cases of swine flu were reported till 10 September, 2009 across the country;

(b) whether World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned of a winter surge in viral infection in developing countries, including India and the South-East Asian countries;

(c) whether Government has seriously considered the WHO report of the shortage of vaccine; and

(d) whether Government is looking to build up its stockpile of vaccine to deal with influenza A (H1N1) or swine flu, as the death toll crosses 200 in the country?